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VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM.

MINUTES
OF THE
ADVISORY COUNCIL,

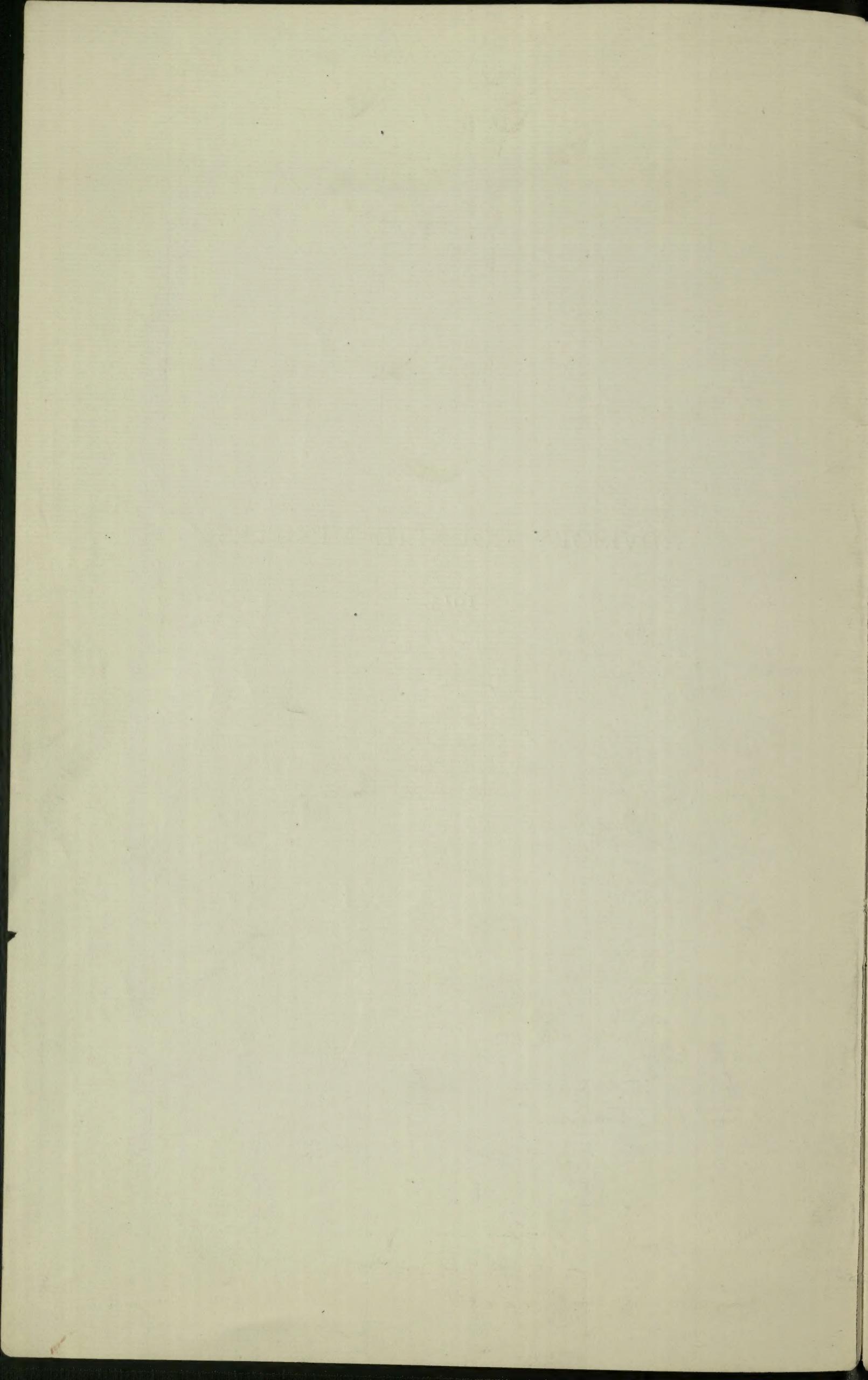
1913.

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ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

1913.



VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM.

ADVISORY COUNCIL.

The President of the Board of Education has decided to appoint an Advisory Council for the Victoria and Albert Museum. The following persons have up to the present date* consented to serve:—

The Rt. Hon. Lord Reay, K.T., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.
(Chairman).
Sir Edward T. Cook (*Vice-Chairman*).
Mr. R. H. Benson.
Mr. R. Blomfield, A.R.A.
Mr. J. H. Fitzhenry, F.S.A.
Mr. R. E. Fry.
Mr. Frank Green, F.S.A.
Lady Horner.
Mr. Elijah Howarth, F.R.A.S., F.Z.S.
The Earl of Lytton.
The Countess of Plymouth.
Sir Isidore Spielmann, C.M.G., F.S.A.

The Council will be asked to advise the Board on questions of principle and policy arising from time to time and to make an annual report on their proceedings to the Board, together with any observations on the condition and needs of the Museum which they may think fit to make.

It will be open to the Council to constitute Sub-Committees on which persons who are specially qualified to advise on particular questions referred to the Council may be invited by the Board to serve in addition to the ordinary members of the Council.

i.e., *23rd December, 1913.

In February 1915 the following additional members consented
to serve on the Council:

Sir Kenneth Anderson K.C.B.G.
Lt Otto Brint.
Lt F. V. Bonridge, R.E.
The Hon. Walter James R.E.
The Hon. Nevil Primrose.
Sir Edward Linnell K.C.B.G.

Institute
a Decreas, Mar 1913
+ Resigned, Feb 1914
Resigned March 1915.

↑
GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE.
↓

The Board of Education will ask the Advisory Council for advice on questions arising from time to time under the following heads:—

- (a) The scope of the Museum and its relations to other Museums and collections;
- (b) The organisation and arrangement of the collections;
- (c) The general principles and policy which should govern the acquisition of objects within the scope of the Museum, whether by gift, loan, or purchase, regard being had to the relative needs of the several departments of the Museum and the funds and accommodation available;
- (d) The arrangements necessary for making the Museum collections instructive to the general public and for facilitating intelligent observation and expert study;
- (e) The relations of the Museum to the Royal College of Art, and to Provincial Museums and Schools of Art;
- (f) The attitude of the Museum towards products of contemporary art and manufacture and their exhibition.

The Board will, from time to time, inform the Council of particular questions arising under these heads on which they desire specific advice, and of the relative urgency of these questions. The Council will also be at liberty to make to the Board proposals for investigating and reporting on questions which appear to them to require special attention.

The Advisory Council will be requested to make an Annual Report on their proceedings to the Board, together with any observations upon the condition and needs of the Museum which they may think fit to make. They will also be requested to review annually the purchases made for the Museum in the previous year, and to consider and report to the Board on the provisional scheme of purchase proposed by the Director for the current financial year. They will not ordinarily and in their collective capacity be asked to advise on or control the purchase of individual objects within the limits of the approved purchase scheme.

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Ad. Council

Extract from a circular letter issued by the President
of the Board of Education on 7 January 1813.

I judge that the ordinary term of office of a member of the Council shall be six years and that after three years from the present date arrangements shall be made for the retirement in each year of approximately one sixth of the whole Body, the returning members being of course eligible for reappointment.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

VOL. I. 1913.

MINUTES of the *first* meeting of the Advisory Council held on the 24th January, 1913.

Present :—Lord Reay (*Chairman*).

Sir Edward T. Cook (*Vice-Chairman*).

Mr. R. H. Benson.

Mr. R. Blomfield.

Mr. J. H. Fitzhenry.

Mr. R. E. Fry.

Lady Horner.

Mr. E. Howarth.

The Earl of Lytton.

The Countess of Plymouth.

Mr. H. A. Kennedy (*Secretary*).

Sir Cecil Smith attended the meeting.

1. A letter and a telegram from Mr. Frank Green and Sir Isidore Spielmann expressing regret at their inability to attend were read by the Chairman.

2. Sir Cecil Smith, in response to the Chairman's invitation, made a general statement in regard to the three references* on the Agenda Paper No. 1 which had been received from the Board of Education.

In regard to (a), he outlined the steps which he had already taken with a view to eliciting information as to the various directions in which the collections may be considered weak, and stated that he hoped to be in a position to submit a statement on the subject for the information of the Council. He suggested that the consideration of this reference should be postponed till then.

AGREED that Sir Cecil Smith's suggestion should be adopted.

In regard to (b) and (c), Sir Cecil Smith explained the reasons which made it desirable to consider these two references together. He stated briefly what had been done in the matter of re-roofing the older part of the buildings since 1909, and submitted a model of the system of "factory" roofs, which had already been applied to Rooms 101–106 and the extension of which to Rooms 95–99 was now before the Council. He then referred to the conditions imposed by the terms of the Jones Bequest, touched on the question of exhibiting furniture decorated with ormolu mounts without the protection of glass cases and proceeded to describe future possibilities in regard to the exhibition of the Jones Bequest and of the French furniture comprised in the general collections. He further explained that the question of the roofs of Rooms 95–99 was somewhat urgent, as it was hoped

* The references were as follows :—

(a) The Advisory Council of the Victoria and Albert Museum are requested to ascertain as soon as possible what are the principal deficiencies in each department and section of the Museum Collections, and to report to the Board thereon, and to make recommendations with a view to the adoption of a definite policy for supplying those deficiencies and generally for augmenting the Collections.

(b) The Advisory Council of the Victoria and Albert Museum are requested to consider and report as to the permanent arrangements which should be made for housing the Jones Collection. In this connection they are requested to consider whether the rooms hitherto appropriated to the Sheepshank's Collection might be utilised for the Jones Collection and the pictures belonging to the Sheepshank's Collection be exhibited elsewhere.

(c) The Advisory Council are also asked to consider whether it is desirable to extend the system of lighting the galleries by means of "factory roofs."

that the re-roofing would be undertaken during the next financial year beginning on April 1st, and the Office of Works would wish to have the Board's proposals as early as possible.

Sir Edward Cook put forward a suggestion that it would be useful if a sub-committee could be appointed to consider the question of the permanent arrangements which should be made for the exhibition of the Jones Collection and of the extension of the factory roof system of lighting to Rooms 95-99 and to report to the Council at the next meeting.

AGREED that a sub-committee consisting of Sir Edward Cook, Mr. Blomfield and Mr. Fitzhenry should be appointed to go into the details of the question with the Director, and should prepare a report for consideration by the Council at the next meeting—the report to be circulated for information a week beforehand.

3. **AGREED** that the Minutes should be circulated to members shortly after each meeting for their information and in order that, in the absence of any correction, they might be confirmed at the next meeting without the formality of reading.

4. **AGREED** that the usual hour and day for the Council meeting should be 11.30 a.m. on Fridays, and that the next meeting should be on Friday, February 14th.

5. The Council then adjourned. The sub-committee (accompanied by the Director and some other members of the Council) inspected the galleries which were to form the subject of their report, and arranged to meet on Wednesday, February 5th, at 5 p.m., to consider the question which had been referred to them.

MINUTES of the *second* meeting of the Advisory Council held on the 14th February, 1913.

Present :—Lord Reay (*Chairman*).

Sir Edward T. Cook (*Vice-Chairman*).

Mr. R. H. Benson.

Mr. R. Blomfield.

Mr. R. E. Fry.

Lady Horner.

Mt. E. Howarth.

The Countess of Plymouth.

Sir Isidore Spielmann.

Mr. H. A. Kennedy (*Secretary*).

Sir Cecil Smith attended the meeting.

1. The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 24th January were confirmed as amended.

2. Sir E. Cook moved, and Mr. Blomfield seconded, that the report of the Sub-committee appointed to consider the questions of the permanent arrangements which should be made for the exhibition of the Jones Collection, and of the extension of the "factory roof" system to Rooms 95-99 be adopted.

AGREED that the report be adopted, and that it be forwarded to the Board of Education.

3. In connection with item 3* of the Agenda the Council considered the steps to be taken in order to enable them to report upon the deficiencies in each Department and Section of the Museum Collections, and to make recommendations to the Board of Education with a view to the adoption of a definite policy for supplying those deficiencies and generally for augmenting the Collections.

AGREED that Sub-committees should be appointed to confer with the Director and the Heads of the different Departments on the question, and to prepare reports, which might be considered at the next meeting of the Council. It was recognised by the Council that these reports would probably be of an interim character.

AGREED that consideration of the deficiencies in the Library as a whole, in the Department of Paintings, and in the Circulation Collections, should be postponed for the present in view of the special circumstances of each of these Departments, but any of the Sub-committees would be free to make recommendations in regard to the Library Collections which might suggest themselves to the Sub-committee while reporting upon the deficiencies in any particular Department.

AGREED that Sub-committees should be constituted as follows:—

For the Department of—

Architecture and Sculpture	-	{ Mr. Blomfield. Sir E. Cook. Mr. Fry.
Ceramics	-	{ Mr. Benson. Mr. Fitzhenry. Sir Isidore Spielmann.
Engraving, Illustration and Design	-	{ Mr. Blomfield. Sir E. Cook. Sir Isidore Spielmann.
Metalwork	-	{ Lady Horner. Mr. Howarth. The Earl of Lytton.
Textiles	-	{ Mr. Benson. Mr. Fry. Lady Horner.
Woodwork	-	{ Mr. Frank Green. Mr. Howarth. Lady Plymouth.
Indian Section	-	{ The Earl of Lytton. Lord Reay.

and that a letter should be written to the Board of Education suggesting that Colonel Sir Swinton Jacob and Colonel Hendley be invited to serve on the Sub-committee appointed to report upon the Indian Collections.

4. Sir Cecil Smith, in response to the Chairman's invitation, made an explanatory statement regarding item 4† of the Agenda, and suggested that the three most important questions to be dealt with in this connection were those of publications, peripatetic guides, and lectures. Sir Cecil Smith outlined the steps

* See reference "a" on page 1 above, footnote.

† Item 4 was as follows:—

To give preliminary consideration to the question of the arrangements necessary for making the Museum Collections instructive to the general public and for facilitating intelligent observation and study.

that were being taken in regard to the preparation of printed departmental guides and in regard to the lines upon which these printed guides would be prepared. He also laid before the Council a suggestion for the institution of a series of lectures in the Lecture Theatre, preferably in the evenings, dealing in a specialised manner with various sections of the Museum Collections.

Mr. Howarth suggested that steps should be taken with a view to ascertaining what was being done in America in the matter of providing peripatetic guides to museums, and of linking up the museums and the schools of art.

AGREED that a letter be sent to the Board of Education at once urging upon them the desirability of taking steps with a view to instituting an organised series of specialised lectures upon the collections next Autumn, and to providing the necessary funds for the purpose.

AGREED that the question of guides should be further considered at the next meeting of the Council in the light of a general statement on the question which the Director said he would be able to submit, and of the information regarding the American system which Mr. Howarth said he would endeavour to get.

AGREED that the next meeting of the Council should be at 11.30 a.m. on Friday, 18th April.

MINUTES of the *third* meeting of the Advisory Council held on the 2nd May, 1913.

Present :—Lord Reay (*Chairman*).

Sir Edward Cook (*Vice-Chairman*).

Mr. Benson.

Mr. Blomfield.

Lady Horner.

Mr. Howarth.

The Earl of Lytton.

The Countess of Plymouth.

Mr. H. A. Kennedy (*Secretary*).

Sir Cecil Smith attended the meeting.

1. A message from Sir Isidore Spielmann, expressing regret at his inability to attend in consequence of illness, was read by the Chairman.

2. The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 14th February, were confirmed.

3. **AGREED** that an expression of the profound regret of the Council at their loss of the services of the late Mr. J. H. Fitzhenry, F.S.A., be recorded in the Minutes.

In this connection the Director made a statement as to the ultimate disposal of the collections on loan from Mr. Fitzhenry, and as to the measures which he was taking with a view to considering whether any, and if so which, objects should be acquired for the Museum.

4. The Reports of the Sub-committees on Architecture and Sculpture, Ceramics, Metalwork and Textiles were considered. Lord Reay drew attention to the fact that one point which emerges very clearly from all the Reports is the inadequacy of the present grant to meet the needs of the Museum. Lord Lytton urged that the financial position should be made clearer before any further progress was made with the reference, and suggested that steps should be taken with a view to ascertaining whether the Board desire that the Council should make recommendations on the basis of the existing grant or on the assumption that the grant will be increased.

AGREED that a Sub-committee be appointed to prepare an interim report for consideration at the next meeting, and that the report should submit to the Board of Education the strong case for an increased grant made in the reports of the different Sub-committees. It was felt that in drafting this interim report the Sub-committee should make use of only such material from the Sub-committees' reports as bears upon the financial question, and that other points should be reserved for the present as many of them need further discussion by the Council. This interim report should further raise the question as to the assumption upon which the Board wish the Council's recommendations in regard to filling the deficiencies to be based by indicating that the prospect of an increase in the grant would materially lighten the labours of the Council.

5. **AGREED** that it would be useful in this connection if information could be obtained as to the amount of the grant made for the purchase of objects to the Louvre and the Kunstgewerbe and Kaiser Friedrich Museums at Berlin, and that the question of a separate grant for the purchase of objects for Circulation be touched upon.

6. **AGREED** that the Sub-committee to prepare the interim report should be Mr. Blomfield, Sir Edward Cook and Lord Lytton.

7. Mr. Blomfield raised a question of policy in regard to the loan of church plate to this Museum, which was suggested by the Metalwork Sub-committee. He thought that the question raised should be very carefully considered, and drew attention to the danger of lessening the educational value of the object for the student by removing it from its environment. The Director made a statement on this subject, and discussion followed. Mr. Blomfield agreed that there was less danger of this kind in regard to plate than in regard to other objects, and stated that he did not wish to press the point. Discussion on this as on other questions arising out of the reports was deferred for the present.

8. The Chairman read to the Council a letter which he had received from the Board of Education regarding the question of the Sub-committee to be appointed to consider the deficiencies in the collections of the Indian Section, and regarding the invitation to Sir Swinton Jacob and Colonel Hendley to serve on the Sub-committee.

AGREED that a Sub-committee be appointed to frame a provisional and temporary scheme of purchase for the Indian Collections, and that the Board of Education be requested to invite Sir Everard im Thurn to serve on the Sub-committee instead of Colonel Hendley.

9. The question of appointing Sub-committees to consider the deficiencies in the Circulation Collections, in the Library and in the Collection of Paintings was considered.

In response to the Chairman's invitation, the Director stated that he would be glad to prepare for the information of the Council a general statement of the present practice and policy in regard to Circulation, the scope of that Department generally and the relation of this Museum to Provincial Museums and Schools of Art.

AGREED that the discussion of the question of Circulation generally should be reserved for consideration later in the light of the Director's statement, but that it would be of material assistance to the Council in considering the interim report to be made to the Board if a preliminary statement as to the present policy of purchase of objects for Circulation were available. The Director said he would be glad to furnish the Council with such a preliminary statement.

AGREED that the question of deficiencies in the Library should be postponed for the present.

AGREED that a Sub-committee be appointed to consider the existing collections of Paintings, and the terms on which they are here, in so far as the interim report on the increase of the Purchase grant may be affected by extension of the collections either (*a*) in the main collections, or (*b*) in order to meet the needs of Circulation.

10. **AGREED** that the Sub-committee of Paintings should consist of Mr. Benson, Lady Horner, and Lord Lytton.

11. A letter, in reply to the letter* which had been sent to the Board by the Council's instruction (*see* Min. No. 2, para. 4) suggesting the institution next autumn of an organised series of lectures on the Museum Collections, was read by the Secretary. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Director made a general statement on the subject of lectures and guides. He pointed out that there was a difference of arrangement between the collections here and those at the British Museum, and that the latter were arranged historically, the former by material. While, therefore, he was not prepared to go so far as to deny the probable utility of a popular guide to the Victoria and Albert Museum he thought it would be unsafe to rely entirely as regards this institution on the British Museum experiment; he felt himself that the special conditions of this Museum demanded rather a system of specialised lectures in connection with each Department. He drew attention to the difficulty which existed at present of providing lecturers from the staff. While several of the Museum officials were fully qualified to give such lectures, and indeed occasionally did so, their time (in the existing shortage of staff) was more than fully occupied, and the question of their payment might create a difficulty. He suggested that the best plan might be to start experimentally by getting one or two lecturers from outside the Museum to give special lectures in connection with one or two Departments. He thought it might be possible to experiment in this way without going to the Treasury, and that it would be an advantage, in going to the Treasury for the necessary funds, if such an experiment could be shown to have been successful. He also explained what was being done, and in contemplation, in the way of departmental printed guides and catalogues.

A discussion followed, and it was thought by the Council that an attempt should be made to cater for the general public by means of popular guides as well as for the specialist student, for whose benefit the lectures would primarily be intended. The Director thought that perhaps something might also be done experimentally on similar lines in regard to the provision of a popular guide without reference to the Treasury. Mr. Howarth stated that he had received several replies from American Directors in regard to the system of instruction by guides in American Museums, which he would tabulate and circulate for the information of the Council. The Director stated that by the next meeting he would be prepared with a detailed scheme, which could be submitted to the Council for consideration. It was agreed that such a scheme should be tentative and experimental.

AGREED that the consideration of this question of lectures and guides should be postponed until the next meeting, and that the Council, while expressing to the Board its view on the question of lectures, might also conveniently express its view on the question of popular guidance.

* These letters are reprinted on page 11.

It was also **AGREED** that the scheme of departmental printed guides and catalogues outlined by the Director was satisfactory.

12. **AGREED** that the next meeting of the Council should be held on Friday, 20th June, at 11.30 a.m.

MINUTES of the *fourth* meeting of the Advisory Council held on the 20th June, 1913.

Present :—Lord Reay (*Chairman*).

Sir Edward Cook (*Vice-Chairman*).

Mr. R. H. Benson.

Mr. R. Blomfield.

Lady Horner.

Mr. E. Howarth.

The Earl of Lytton.

Mr. H. A. Kennedy (*Secretary*).

Sir Cecil Smith attended the meeting.

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 2nd May were confirmed.

2. The Chairman read a letter which he had received from the Director on the subject of certain purchases for the Museum recently sanctioned by the President, and his reply. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Director made a statement as to the purchases in question and laid on the table for the information of the Council a detailed list of the objects bought.

3. The draft of the Interim Report on the Purchase Grant to be submitted to the Board was read, and adopted as amended.

4. The question of appointing Sub-committees to consider the principal deficiencies in the Circulation Collection and in the Library was considered.

The Director made a brief statement as to the various questions which would ultimately need to be considered by the Council in connection with Circulation, and discussion followed as to the appointment of a Sub-committee to consider the deficiencies in the Circulation Collections. Mr. Howarth urged the importance of a general enquiry being made by the Council into the whole question of Circulation, but it was pointed out that it might be difficult to make any general enquiry into Circulation without going beyond the terms of reference at present before the Council. It was finally agreed that a Sub-committee be appointed, and that it be asked to confine itself to such matters as might have a bearing upon the purchase grant without raising any larger questions of general policy.

5. **AGREED** that the Sub-committee for the Circulation Collections should consist of Mr. Benson, Mr. Blomfield and Mr. Howarth; and that the Sub-committee for the Library should consist of Sir Edward Cook, Lady Horner and Lord Lytton.

6. In response to the Chairman's invitation, the Director submitted to the Council a statement of his scheme for experimental lectures, and of the difficulties which suggested themselves to him regarding the proposal for popular guides. Discussion on these two questions followed, in the course of which the Director called attention to a difficulty which he had not mentioned in his statement, of starting a scheme for popular guidance at a time when special warding of the collections is temporarily necessary.

AGREED that the Council inform the Board that in their opinion the Director's experimental scheme for six specialised evening lectures next autumn is one which should be adopted.

Regarding the institution of popular guides, the Chairman expressed an opinion that it might be difficult to resist the criticism that, as the Museum was a public institution, an endeavour should be made to cater for the general public as well as for the specialised student for whom primarily specialised lectures were designed. He thought, therefore, that it would be a good thing if an experimental scheme for popular guides, as well as for evening lectures, could be devised. He suggested that, although the educational value of such popular guidance might not be great, it was probable that in this way many might at least be brought to realise how little they know. He agreed that the experiment should be limited to certain days and hours and to certain galleries, so that as little inconvenience as possible might be caused to students. On these lines he would like very much to see some scheme for popular guidance to be introduced experimentally, at any rate during the summer months. He therefore suggested that the Council should express to the Board their opinion that at the earliest possible date compatible with the proper safeguarding of the collections, for a limited period, and with due regard for the needs of students working in the Museum, the experiment should be tried of providing a popular guide to conduct parties of visitors at stated times round some or all of the galleries.

AGREED that a communication* should be sent to the Board on these lines. Mr. Blomfield, however, wished it to be placed on record that he entirely disagreed with the proposal. There would, in his opinion, be no educational value in the information which a popular guide would impart; and, on the other hand, the parties by their mere presence would tend to exercise a most disturbing influence on students of all kinds.

7. **AGREED** that, if another meeting of the Council should be necessary in the near future, Friday, July 11th, at 11.30, would be a suitable day and time.

MINUTES of the *fifth* meeting of the Advisory Council held on the 12th December, 1913.

Present :—Lord Reay (*Chairman*).

Sir Edward Cook (*Vice-Chairman*).

Mr. Benson.

Mr. Blomfield.

Mr. Fry.

Lady Horner.

Mr. Howarth.

The Earl of Lytton.

Mr. H. A. Kennedy (*Secretary*).

Sir Cecil Smith attended the meeting.

1. The Chairman informed the Council that he had written to Sir Everard Im Thurn thanking him on behalf of the Council for the services which he had kindly rendered on the Sub-committee for the Indian Section, and read the reply which had been received from him.

2. In response to a request from the Chairman, Sir Cecil Smith made a statement as to the results of the appointment of the Guide Demonstrator and of the institution of the evening lectures, and gave the figures of attendance. It appeared that the figures of attendance at the tours by the Official Guide were materially less on Student than on Free Days, and this was largely due to the fact that a fee of 6d. is charged for admission on those days.

* Reprinted on page 11.

AGREED that this constituted a further reason for the abolition of the fee for admission on Student Days, and that a letter* should be addressed to the Board expressing the Council's hope that this restriction might be removed, and suggesting that the experiment should be tried of abolishing the payment of entrance fees on two of the three days in each week.

3. The question as to the Report on the Deficiencies of the Circulation Department was raised, and at the invitation of the Chairman Mr. Benson, one of the members of the Sub-committee, explained to the Council the grounds which led him to refrain from expressing an opinion on the question. Sir Cecil Smith made a statement as to the various questions involved; as to the interest which the Board's Standing Council of Advice for Art has in the matter; and as to the difficulties of dealing with the deficiencies in the collection without raising general questions. He announced that the Board contemplated appointing shortly a joint Committee to deal with the whole problem, and suggested that, pending the appointment of that Committee, no action should be taken by the Council. The reports which had been prepared by Mr. Blomfield and Mr. Howarth would be of great value in preparing part of the ground for discussion by the Committee.

AGREED that the Circulation Collections should not be dealt with in the recommendation which the Council had been invited to make by the Board regarding the policy to be adopted in making purchases for the Collections.

4. The reply† from the Board to the Interim Report upon the Purchase Grant was read by the Chairman. The Chairman suggested that the best method of proceeding would now be to appoint a Sub-committee to consider the reports of the various Sub-committees, and to prepare a general report which should form a brief résumé of all the Departmental reports; this to be considered by the Council at the next meeting with a view to presentation to the Board. Discussion followed as to the terms of reference to the Sub-committee.

AGREED that a Sub-committee be appointed to draw up a report giving a review of the whole situation and embodying the various Departmental reports.

AGREED that such a report would form the basis of discussion as to the reply to be sent to the Board on the allocation of the available grant.

AGREED that the Sub-committee should consist of—

Mr. Benson,
Sir Edward Cook, and
Lady Horner.

5. The question of the procedure to be adopted with a view to preparing the Annual Report for which the Board had asked in the terms of general reference was discussed. The Chairman submitted for the consideration of the Council that there should be, firstly, a short report on the lines of the Report of the Consultative Committee to the Board of Education, which would be printed in the Board's Annual Report; and that, if the Council thought fit to make any observations upon the condition and needs of the Museum, these should be made in a further report which would need to be a confidential document, and so should not be published. He pointed out that the Council were also asked, in the general terms of reference, "to review annually the purchases made for the Museum in the "previous year, and to consider and report to the Board on the provisional scheme "of purchases proposed by the Director for the current financial year," and that the Director's printed report on the principal purchases would appear early in the year.

* Reprinted on page 12.

† Reprinted on page 12.

In reply to the Chairman, Sir Cecil Smith then stated that he had ascertained that the Board approved the suggestion that the printed report should be on the lines of that of the Consultative Committee. Discussion followed.

AGREED: firstly, that there should be a printed report on the lines suggested ; and the draft prepared by the Secretary was then considered and adopted.*

Secondly: that a Sub-committee be appointed to consider the Director's Review of Principal Acquisitions and prepare a report for consideration by the Council with a view to presentation to the Board ; and that this report should also make proposals for the allocation of the grant available for next year and contain the Council's observations, if any, on the needs of the Museum. It was suggested that the convenient time for this discussion would be as early as possible in the new Financial Year.

AGREED that the Sub-committee should consist of—

Mr. Howarth,
Lord Lytton,
Sir Isidore Spielman.

6. The Chairman raised the question as to the need for an increase in the numbers of the Council, and submitted, for the approval of the Council, a proposal that he should write a letter to the President on the matter.

AGREED that an increase would be very desirable.

Mr. Blomfield suggested that some artists should be invited to serve on the Council. The Chairman pointed out that the Council already have power to constitute sub-committees on which persons, who are specially qualified to advise on particular questions, may be invited by the Board to serve in addition to the ordinary members of the Council, and the suggestion was not pressed.

7. **AGREED** that the next meeting of the Council should be on Friday, the 13th February, 1914, at 11.30 a.m.

REAY,

Chairman of the Advisory Council.

H. A. KENNEDY,
Secretary.

* The Report is reprinted on page 12.

APPENDIX.

COPY OF LETTER TO BOARD OF EDUCATION *re* ORGANISED SERIES OF SPECIALISED LECTURES.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM,

25th February, 1913.

Sir,

I am instructed by the Advisory Council of this Museum to inform you that they have had under preliminary consideration the question of the arrangements to be made for making the Museum Collections instructive to the general public and for facilitating intelligent observation and expert study, and that in this connection they desire to urge upon the Board of Education the need for the early institution of an organised series of specialised lectures upon the different sections of the Museum Collections. They think it very desirable that steps should be taken with a view to inaugurating such a series next Autumn, and to providing the necessary funds for the purpose.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) H. A. KENNEDY.

Secretary to the Advisory Council.

The Secretary,

Board of Education, S.W.

COPY OF REPLY TO THE ABOVE.

BOARD OF EDUCATION,

Whitehall, London, S.W.

25th March, 1913.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of February 25th, 1913, I am directed to state that the Board of Education have carefully considered the recommendation made by the Advisory Council for the early institution of an organised series of specialised lectures upon the different sections of the Museum Collections. The Board fully concur in the Council's view of the importance of this matter, but at the same time they feel that it would be desirable in the first instance to proceed tentatively and to experiment with the scheme on a small scale before committing themselves to any considerable programme of expenditure. They propose, therefore, to instruct the Director to prepare a detailed scheme, or alternative schemes, for a series of lectures, with a view to beginning them in the course of the Autumn, and to submit these schemes, when ready, for the criticisms and observations of the Advisory Council.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) L. A. SELBY-BIGGE.

The Secretary,

Advisory Council,

Victoria and Albert Museum,

South Kensington.

COPY OF LETTER TO BOARD OF EDUCATION *re* LECTURES AND GUIDE.

28th June, 1913.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 25th March, I have the honour to inform you that at a meeting of the Council held on the 20th instant the Director submitted for the consideration of the Council a statement, of which a copy is attached,* (*a*) as to the institution of an experimental course of specialised lectures, and (*b*) as to the difficulties of providing popular guidance at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Council gave careful consideration to both of these questions, and in regard to the proposal for six specialised lectures on three technical processes connected with textiles agreed to inform the Board that they concur with the scheme submitted by the Director, and that in their opinion it might with advantage be tried next autumn.

With regard to the question of popular guidance, it was agreed, with one dissentient, that the Council should convey to the Board an expression of their opinion that at the earliest possible date compatible with the due safeguarding of the Collections, for a limited period, and with due regard to the needs of students working in the Museum, the experiment should be tried of providing a popular guide to conduct parties of visitors at stated times round some, or all, of the Galleries. The Council understand that the popular guide provided at the British Museum has proved a success; and they are not convinced that success would not result from a similar undertaking in the Victoria and Albert Museum, although the system of arrangement at that institution may be better adapted for a scheme of popular guidance than the system at this Museum. They think, however, that it may be not unreasonably contended that, as the Museum is maintained out of the public funds, its educational influence should be widened by trying the experiment of providing instruction for the general public by means of a popular guide, as well as by specialised lectures, which are likely to appeal mainly to students.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

REAY,

Chairman of the Advisory Council.

* Not printed.

COPY OF LETTER TO ADVISORY COUNCIL IN REPLY TO THEIR INTERIM REPORT.

28th July, 1913.

13/2762 V.

My Lord,

I am directed by the President of the Board of Education to convey to the Advisory Council his thanks for their Interim Report relating to the principal deficiencies in each Department of the Museum and to recommendations with a view to the adoption of a definite policy for supplying those deficiencies and generally augmenting the Collections. Mr. Pease has directed a copy of their Report to be furnished to the Treasury with a letter calling their attention to the Council's remarks with regard to the inadequacy of the existing Purchase Grant to meet the needs of the Museum, and informing them that the Board propose in due course to ask for an increase in the Grant. In the meanwhile Mr. Pease would be glad to have the Council's advice as to the best distribution of the amount of the Purchase Grant at present available for the Museum.

I am, My Lord, etc.,

(Signed) L. A. SELBY-BIGGE.

The Rt.-Hon. Lord Reay, K.T., etc.

COPY OF LETTER TO BOARD OF EDUCATION *re* ABOLITION OF FEES ON STUDENT DAYS.

22nd December, 1913.

Sir,

I am instructed by the Chairman of the Advisory Council to inform you that, from a statement made by the Director of the Museum at a recent meeting of the Council as to the figures of attendance at the tours by the Official Guide, it appeared that during the months of October and November the average attendance on free days amounted to 29 visitors per tour, but on Students' days to 15 per tour; and that this difference is largely due to the fact that a charge is made for admission to the Museum on Students' days. It was unanimously agreed that your attention should be invited to this restriction, and that there should be conveyed to you an expression of the Council's hope that steps may be taken with a view to its removal. The Council suggest for your consideration that the experiment should be tried of abolishing the fee for admission on two of the three Students' days in the first instance.

I am, Sir, etc.

(Signed) H. A. KENNEDY.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1913.

(Adopted on 12th December, 1913).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL.

The following are the members who first consented to serve on the Advisory Council of the Museum:—

Rt.-Hon. Lord Reay, K.T., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. (*Chairman*).
 Sir Edward T. Cook (*Vice-Chairman*).
 Mr. R. H. Benson.
 Mr. R. Blomfield.
 Mr. J. H. Fitzhenry.
 Mr. R. E. Fry.
 Mr. Frank Green.
 Lady Horner.
 Mr. Elijah Howarth.
 The Earl of Lytton.
 The Countess of Plymouth.
 Sir Isidore Spielmann, C.M.G.

It is with profound regret that the Council have to record the severe loss which they have sustained through the death of Mr. J. H. Fitzhenry, F.S.A.

WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council have received from the Board of Education references on the subject of the permanent arrangements to be made for housing the Jones Collection, the extension to the Sheepshanks Galleries of the system of lighting by means of 'factory' roofs and of the purchase policy to be adopted with a view to supplying the principal deficiencies in the Museum collections.

A report on the permanent arrangements for exhibiting the Jones Collection and on the extension of the 'factory' roof system to the Sheepshanks Galleries was adopted by the Council at the meeting held on the 14th February, and was presented to the Board. An interim report on the deficiencies in the Collections was adopted by the Council on the 20th June for presentation to the Board. The Council have also, in response to a request of the Board, submitted their views on the need for appointing a Guide Demonstrator to the Museum, and for evening lectures.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND SUB-COMMITTEES.

During the year 1913 the Council met five times. There were twenty-one meetings of the Sub-Committees.

REAY

(Chairman).

H. A. KENNEDY

(Secretary).

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